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Whitney Houston, iconic pop star, dies at 48



Los Angeles -- Legendary pop singer Whitney Houston was found dead Saturday at a Beverly Hills, California, hotel, officials said. She was 48.

The entertainer, whose incredible talent was discovered at an early age, was pronounced dead at 3:55 p.m. (6:55 p.m. ET) at the Beverly Hilton hotel despite resuscitation efforts, a police spokesman said.

See story on page 12

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Lynette Do Nacimiento of Champagne Carnival Group crowned Aruba's 58th Queen

Since a fully organized, united carnival was established on Aruba 58 years ago, one of the prerequisites for it to be properly was a lovely and gracious young woman would be chosen to reign supreme as queen. Over the years, other age categories have been added, with suitable selective pageants to match, but the principal and finally election of Aruba's Grand Queen is still an event to rival the most elaborate and exciting of pageants.

Friday evening, February 10, a panel of judges chose Lynette Do Nacimiento as Aruba's Carnival Queen 2012.

Continued on page 2



Night time is the right time for dancing in the streets: Tivoli Lighting Parade

Night time is the right time for dancing in the streets: Tivoli Lighting Parade Night time is the right time for dancing in the streets: Tivoli Lighting Parade

The introduction of the Tivoli Lighting Parade to Aruba's carnival schedule over 25 years ago added what is today one of the most popular events during the entire season. How better to spend a Saturday night than dancing in the streets with friends and family while admiring the creativity and artistry of carnival costume and float designers?

Saturday evening's parade filled the town of Oranjestad with the driving beat of carnival music until well after midnight from 12 different bands as 3030 participants wended their way through the town, demonstrating how well they can swing their hips and shake their shoulders to the music. They had quite some competition from the spectators that lined the road.

Night time, when the cool evening air and tradewinds increase the comfort of the carnival experience, truly is the right time to enjoy this beloved bit of island culture!



For more photos see page 4

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Lynette Do Nacimiento of Champagne Carnival Group crowned Aruba's 58th Queen



Queen, Runner up, Prins and Pancho, PM



First Runner up Leonella de Palm



Laura Ariana Molina EPI candidate



Best show Lynette of Champagne Group



SETAR Queen Daniela Maldonado

It was a well-deserved title, as the lovely young woman demonstrated ultimate poise and congeniality throughout the evening; however, she

couldn't resist a little victory dance after being handed her congratulatory bouquet, something very much like you would see in a football end

zone, with quite a bit more wiggling of the hips.

Lynette also was named the winner of Best Costume and Best Show, both of which were an ode to Aruba in song and dress. She demonstrated no less than 4 costume changes during her show, each one representing the 4 colors of the Aruban flag. She also claimed the trophy for Most Popular, and a substantial gift certificate from Aruba Trading Company and carnival sponsors Revlon, for Best Make-up.

Leonella de Palm, representing TOB Carnival Group, won for Best Speech, and was named First Runner-up. Chanella Maldonado of Majestic Carnival Group won the SMS voting

competition from SETAR N.V., Aruba's national telecommunications company. Rounding out the roster of candidates was Milenca Melissa Maria Ridderstap representing the district of Noord and a very animated Laura Ariana Molina from the EPI Hospitality Management School.

Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman had the honor of crowning the new Grand Carnival Queen at the end of a majestic evening of pageantry and an endless shower of confetti and streamers. For the island, this is the

equivalent of a Miss America Pageant, sans the bathing suits, and that famous event could learn a lot about excitement and grandeur from Aruba's Carnival Queen Elections!

by Rosallie Klein



District of Noord Milenca Ridderstap

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Safety body searches during the rest of Carnival period

ORANJESTADE -- The Body Search ordinance, which is a preventive measure practiced by our local Police, will be applicable during the rest of the Carnival period as a measure to help promote security in certain areas where there are festive activities.

This ordinance, the personal Body Search and searches in vehicles and handbags, is already a known practice by the police. In the past it was only permissible when there was the strong suspicion that there were illegal drugs or weapons on a person. **However, the new ordinance gives the police the authority to do a body search or the search of vehicles or handbags in certain areas.** An announcement may be made

previous to the search before everyone in the area is subjected to the search. There is no need to be in a suspect area for the search to be done.

A control was conducted last Friday, the 10th from 6Pm to Saturday 6:00am the next day. This was done in the Aruba entertainment and Dakota areas during the election of the Carnival queen.

This was done along the route of the Lighting Parade on the 11th and 12th of February in the Oranjestad area. Also for the route of the Children's Carnival the police may do body searches. **This measure is expressly a measure to ensure the safety of our people and the police expect the cooperation of everyone.**

The year 2011 was a remarkable year of growth for APA

ORANJESTAD -- Director of Aruba Ports Authority (APA), Alphonso Boekhoudt, shared aspects of the remarkable growth of APA. He informed about the growth of container activities and other cargo movements and about the expectations for the year ahead.

Boekhoudt shared that, with respect to container activities, this grew by almost 9%. As for bulk cargo, which is normally cargo for construction material, they had the importation of 337 thousand metric tons of cargo, which is a growth of 10% compared to the previous year.

According to Boekhoudt, the growth of the wharf activities was remarkable in the different sectors of APA. Cargo



contributes primarily to our importation and local economy in a substantial manner. The APA director looks forward to this growth continuing into the

year 2012. He asserts that they will work hard to make sure that this trend continue both in the area of cruise ship activity and in cargo.

This year they have programmed the removal of the tanks situated on the premises of APA. Work on their removal is already in progress and by the month of March we will begin to see the disappearance of these tanks after so many decades. Once removed, they will begin making the changes in the infrastructure of the entrance of the Wharf to accommodate where the streetcar will travel. The area where the tanks were will be redesigned with something positive for our tourism industry, says Alphonso Boekhoudt.

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Night time is the right time for dancing in the streets: Tivoli Lighting Parade






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Pandora hosted a fabulous event for Valentine's Day



Friday, 10th Feb 2012, On valentine's day weekend, many took the opportunity to look for that special gift while enjoying a refreshing glass of pink champagne and delicious chocolate covered strawberries at The Pandora Store in Paseo Herencia Mall. The event was hosted as a

small token of thanks and a reward for all the clients and well wishers passing by that supported Pandora through the Valentine's period, and through-out the year. As you can see, all enjoyed a memorable evening, while shopping for that special gift for Valentine's Day.

Pandora Jewelry is well known for celebrating the unforgettable moments in your life, many of which take place on Valentine's Day, making it a unique gift for the occasion.

Indeed, the Pandora Store has the most extensive and diverse collection of Murano



glass, gold & silver, wood, and many more unique charms for a create-your-own-design concept for bracelets, necklaces & rings. All customers found the store fascinating and the selection appealing!

Pandora has a special promotion for valentine's; Buy any Pandora jewelry worth \$150 or more and receive a Pandora heart jewelry box FREE, the offer is valid till 14th February, while supplies last.

Pandora celebrates your love and wishes you all a Happy Valentine's Day!





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Arabs agree Syria opposition contacts, peace force

CAIRO(AFP) - The Arab League said it agreed yesterday to open contacts with Syria's opposition and to ask the United Nations to form a joint peacekeeping force to the unrest-swept nation in moves swiftly rejected by Syria.

Arab diplomats "will open channels of communication with the Syrian opposition and offer full political and financial support, urging the opposition to unify its ranks," it said in a statement obtained by AFP.

They would also "ask the UN Security Council to issue a decision on the formation of a joint UN-Arab peacekeeping force to oversee the implementation of a ceasefire," it said.

After marathon talks in Cairo, the 22-member bloc also announced it had formally

ended its own observer mission to Syria, which was suspended last month because of an upsurge in violence.

Only Algeria and Lebanon expressed reservations against the resolution, an Arab League official said.

Syria's ambassador to Cairo "categorically" rejected the Arab League moves.

"The Syrian Arab Republic categorically rejects the decisions of the Arab League," which "reflects the hysteria of these governments" after failing to get foreign intervention at the UN Security Council, Yusef Ahmed said in a statement.

On the ground, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that 14 people were killed in a relentless assault by

forces of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on the central protest city of Homs.

All but one of them died in Baba Amr, a rebel stronghold in the city which armed forces have targeted for more than a week, killing at least 500 people, according to activists.

It also reported fierce clashes on the northern edge of nearby Rastan.

"Tank and mortar fire intensified yesterday afternoon," the Observatory's Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP, adding the humanitarian situation was worsening. "There is a shortage of bread in some areas."

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent and International Committee of the Red Cross said their "volunteers are distributing food, medical supplies,

blankets, and hygiene consumables to thousands of people" in Homs.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon had broached the idea of a joint Arab-UN mission this month as he bemoaned the Security Council's failure to agree a resolution on the crisis in the face of Chinese and Russian opposition.

The pan-Arab bloc has already put forward a plan for Assad to transfer power to his deputy and for a government of national unity to be formed ahead of elections.

Also yesterday, State television aired live footage of an official funeral for the 28 people authorities say were killed in twin car bombs in the northern city of Aleppo on Friday.

The authorities blamed "terrorists" for the attacks, but the rebel Free Syrian Army accused the regime of launching them "to steer attention away from what it is doing in Homs, Zabadani and elsewhere."

A US media report citing unnamed American officials said Al-Qaeda's Iraqi branch was likely to have carried out

the Aleppo bombings, along with attacks in Damascus in December and January.

Iraq's deputy interior minister, Adnan al-Assadi, told AFP that Baghdad has "intelligence information that a number of Iraqi jihadists went to Syria" and that "weapons smuggling is still ongoing."

And Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri voiced his support for Syria's uprising in a new video posted on jihadist Internet forums, US monitors SITE Intelligence said.

Rights groups say more than 6,000 people have died since protests began in Syria in March last year, inspired by similar movements in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.

The Syrian government has sought to blame foreign-backed "armed terrorist gangs" for the violence.

A commission tasked with drafting a new constitution submitted a draft charter on Sunday to Assad, who is to review the charter before referring it to the People's Assembly, the official SANA news agency reported.



Valentine's Day Tuesday Feb. 14th Bottle of Champagne per couple

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Peru rebel leader 'Artemio' wounded

LIMA (AFP) - Peru's military said yesterday "Artemio," leader of the once feared Shining Path guerrilla movement was alive but badly wounded, retracting an earlier presidential announcement that he had been killed.

"He is alive and receiving the appropriate medical attention," said Defense Minister Alberto Otarola, correcting an earlier declaration from President Ollanta Humala that the guerrilla fighter's body had been discovered.

A military offensive was launched last week to capture Artemio, 47, whose real name was Florindo Flores. Defense officials said they were trailing the guerrilla leader, who was apparently wounded in a battle

with police.

Otarola said Artemio had been shot and was found in a hut by a military patrol in the Peruvian jungle.

Artemio was pursued, and apparently wounded, by special forces in southeastern Peru's Puerto Pizana area of the Alto Huallaga jungle, according to last week's statement.

The government has been seeking to eradicate the last vestiges of Shining Path. The group is a Peruvian revolutionary organization that endorses communism and has violently sought to overthrow the government since 1980. It is listed by Lima and the US State Department as a terrorist organization.

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Murdoch flying into Sun storm in Britain

LONDON (AFP) - Rupert Murdoch will fly to Britain this week to deal with a spiralling new crisis in his media empire after five staff at his tabloid The Sun were arrested on corruption charges, sources said yesterday.

The Australian-born tycoon said he was committed to the UK's biggest selling paper, but employees reportedly fear he could close The Sun as he shut the News of the World last July amid a scandal over phone hacking.

The latest allegations, involving Sun journalists bribing police and public officials for information, are a new blow for Murdoch's US-based News Corporation, which also owns Fox News and the Wall Street Journal.

Murdoch will come to London "later in the week", a person familiar with the matter told AFP. The person said Murdoch's visit had already been planned before the arrests happened.

Another source close to the matter said he would meet with journalists at The Sun to reassure them about the future of the paper, which he bought in 1969 and which sells around 2.5 million copies a day.

In an email to staff on Saturday, Tom Mockridge, the chief executive of Murdoch's

British newspaper subsidiary News International, said that Murdoch would stand by The Sun in the hour of its "greatest challenge".

The Sun journalists arrested on Saturday were deputy editor Geoff Webster, picture editor John Edwards, chief reporter John Kay, chief foreign correspondent Nick Parker and reporter John Sturgis.

A Ministry of Defence official, a member of the armed forces and a policeman were also arrested over allegations that journalists paid officials for information. All eight were later released on bail.

The arrests were part of a widening Scotland Yard probe into alleged corrupt payments, and come a fortnight after another four current and former Sun journalists were arrested over similar allegations.

A British minister on Sunday said it was clear that the country needed a tougher regulatory system for the Press, following an inquiry into the ethics of the country's newspapers set up by Prime Minister David Cameron.

British media reported that many journalists at The Sun were furious over the so-called "witch-hunt", and at the fact that News Corp. had handed over the information to police that led to the arrests.

US Catholic bishops reject compromise on contraception

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US Roman Catholic bishops have voiced opposition to President Barack Obama's plan to require insurers to provide free birth control -- despite earlier indication they might accept the compromise.

"The only complete solution to this religious liberty problem is for HHS (Department of Health and Human Services) to rescind the mandate of these objectionable services," the US Conference of Catholic Bishops said in a statement.

The government's decision to guarantee women access to contraceptives "remains a grave moral concern," they said.

On Friday, Obama said his government would no longer require religious organizations to offer free contraception on employee health plans and decry opponents he said had

turned the issue into a "political football."

But he stuck by the principle that all women should have free access to such services, putting the onus on insurance firms to approach women working for religious employers like Catholic hospitals to offer them birth control.

The fight erupted when the administration decided not to exempt religious employers from a requirement under its health reform law that work-based insurance plans offer women coverage for contraception.

Officials argued that a woman who worked, for example, as a nurse at a Catholic hospital might not share their employer's religious opposition to contraception and should have the same rights as female workers elsewhere.

Roman Catholic leaders were outraged -- even though

houses of worship were exempt -- and Republicans used the row to whip up a social issues storm, firing up their conservative political base in an election year.

After the compromise was announced on Friday, New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan described it as a "first step in the right direction."

But the later statement from all the bishops said they will continue to object because of Obama's decision "to retain HHS's nationwide mandate of insurance coverage of sterilization and contraception."

"We will continue -- with no less vigor, no less sense of urgency -- our efforts to correct this problem through the other two branches of government," the bishops said.

However, many other organizations, including Catholic ones, welcomed the compromise.

Garden Café at The Mill Resort celebrates
Valentine's Day Special Dinner February 14,
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Romantic Welcome drink: Pinot di Pinot,
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MENU

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Health & Living

New advance in gene therapy for blindness

(AFP) -- US scientists on Wednesday reported a new advance in using gene therapy to restore eyesight in people with a rare, inherited form of blindness.

The therapy, which had been previously tried in just one eye of 12 people, worked well when injected into the other eye of three of the patients, offering a sign that the treatment is safe, effective and will not be rejected by the body.

Despite the risks, three adult patients from the initial study -- whose results were published in 2009 showing that some level of vision had been restored in all of them and six were no longer legally blind -- agreed to try the therapy in their untreated eye.

The trio were all better able to see in dim light afterward, and two were able to navigate obstacles in low-light situations. There were no reports of ill side-effects.

The study appears in the journal Science Translational Medicine.

"Patients have told us how their lives have changed since receiving gene therapy," said Bennett. "They are able to walk around at night, go shopping for groceries and recognize people's faces -- all things they couldn't do before." lead author Jean Bennett, professor of ophthalmology at the University of Pennsylvania

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Treat your heart to a healthy diet this Valentine's Day



A 'berry' good choice

Start your special day with oatmeal topped with blueberries and walnuts.

Oatmeal contains heart-healthy fiber that can help control your cholesterol levels.

Blueberries are packed with phytochemicals. They can

protect against heart disease, as well as prevent cancer, improve eye health and resist asthma.

Something fishy

Include fish in your Valentine's Day dinner whether you are dining out or cooking at home.

The American Heart Association recommends eating fish at least two times a week. Each serving is 3.5 ounces cooked, or about 3/4 cup of flaked fish.

Fatty fish like salmon, mackerel, herring, lake trout, sardines and albacore tuna are high in omega-3 fatty acids.

Toast to your health

Red wine contains antioxidants, flavonoids, and resveratrol, which can limit plaque buildup in arteries that can lead to heart disease.

All forms of alcohol seem to increase the good cholesterol levels in the blood, but it must be used in moderation. Moderate intake is up to one drink daily for women and two drinks daily for men.

Drinking too much alcohol can increase chances of heart disease.

Sweet treats

Consumption of cocoa and chocolate has been linked to a decreased risk of heart disease in several studies.

Dark chocolate contains more heart-healthy flavonoids than milk chocolate.

So, if you have a sweet tooth, opt for dark chocolate this Valentine's Day!

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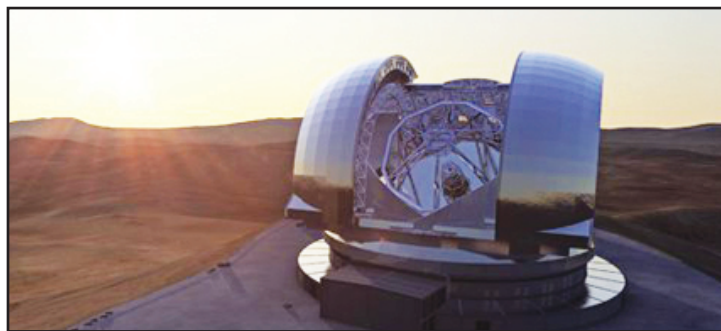
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SCI-TECH

Largest virtual telescope operational in Chile



An artist's impression of an extremely large telescope

(AFP) -- Astronomers in Chile said this week they had created the world's largest virtual optical telescope by using a special technique to combine images from the four most powerful devices as if they were a single device.

"This weekend we managed to finish the process (of merging the images) after almost a year," said Jean-Philippe Berger, a scientist at the European Southern Observatory which operates the Very Large Telescope array (VLT) in Chile's high northern desert.

"For the first time, we made scientific observations through this new instrument, and we

can say that it can be used."

The VLT complex in Paranal includes four large optical telescopes, each of which are about 30 meters (100 feet) high and have mirrors eight meters (25 feet) in diameter.

The astronomers brought together the signals received by the four telescopes thanks to a technique known as interferometry, which combines the images from the four to achieve a higher resolution image.

This creates a virtual mirror which is the equivalent of 130 meters (400 feet) in diameter and, according to Berger, improves the resolution and the ability to "zoom" in on the cosmos.

"We see the surface of stars, including objects that have never been observed before, such as some very young stars or galaxies," Berger explained.

"It is very difficult to build large optical telescopes, so interferometry was used," he added. "We have been working on this for a long time and are very excited to start doing science" with it.

The complex is operated by the ESO, created in 1962 and which has support from Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Britain, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Google to make home entertainment system: report

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Google will mirror Apple's winning hardware-software formula with an Android-powered entertainment system that wirelessly streams content through homes, the Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday.

The Journal cited unnamed sources as saying Google will take the unprecedented step of stamping its own brand on the home-entertainment system, which was expected to debut this year.

Google, which announced in August it is buying US smartphone maker Motorola Mobility for \$12.5 billion in cash, told AFP it would not

comment on "rumor and speculation."

The California-based technology firm has openly shared a vision of its open-source Android software being used to power a wide array of devices aside from smartphones and tablets.

Google also operates an Internet music service along with video-sharing website YouTube, both of which have potential to provide digital content to home entertainment systems.

Apple has proven the money-making power of combining devices, software and digital entertainment material in its iPad, iPhone, and iPod devices.

Brazil to lead world in biotech crops: association

(AFP) -- Brazil is on course to dislodge the United States as the world's top producer of biotech crops in the coming years, a leading promoter of farm biotechnology recently said.

The US currently holds the lead with 69 million hectares (170 million acres) under biocrop cultivation in 2011, ahead of Brazil with 30.3 million, Argentina with 23.7 million and India with 10.6 million, the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) said.

But USAAA, a government-funded international body promoting the use of farm biotechnology, particularly in developing countries, said Brazil was last year the engine of global biocrop growth, with 4.9 more million hectares, up 20 percent from 2010.

Speaking in a teleconference from the Philippines, ISAAA President Clive James said that while the United States was currently well ahead, "Brazil is closing the gap very quickly" and bringing in new biocrops like sugar cane.

Brazil has eight million hectares of sugar, the largest hectareage in the world, and is expected to increase it by 50 percent in the next five

years for both ethanol and sugar production, he noted.

Biotech crops are genetically modified to improve resistance to pests, diseases, drought and cold. They can also be used to enhance the nutritional content of foods.

Proponents of biotech farming say it can help address the challenges of feeding a growing world population by increasing crop yields in a sustainable way.

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ACROSS

1. PDQ, in a memo
5. More subdued
10. Marlo's spouse
14. Actor Eric of "Troy"
15. Japanese volcano
16. Wear out
17. Apple preservative
18. Author Anya
19. Medical subj.
20. Final furlongs
23. Genetic info carrier
24. "___ Fideles"
25. Fixes up rundown abodes, informally
27. Constellation seen from Australia
29. New York Indian
32. Norwegian

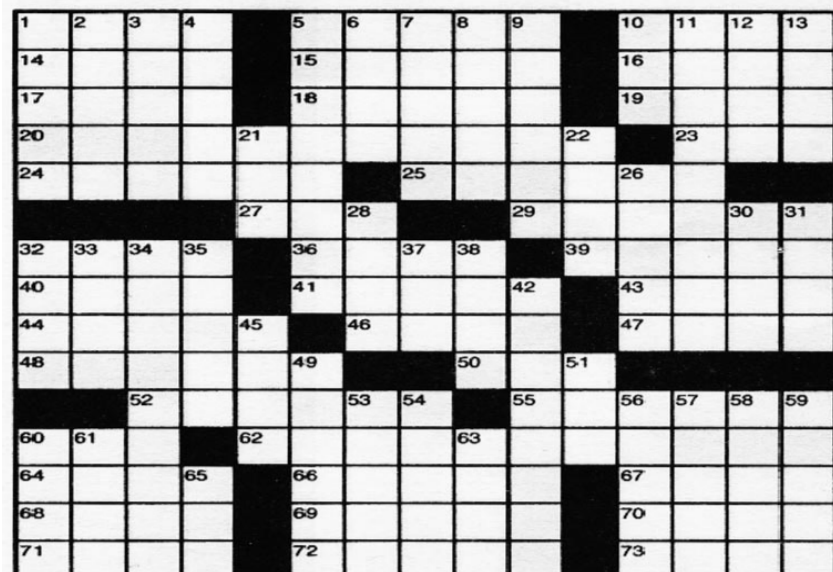
36. king, once
39. Founts of wisdom
40. Biography
41. Violet of "The Help"
43. "___ Touch of Mink"
44. LuPone or LaBelle
46. Word in a Beatles refrain
47. WWII battle site
48. Constructs
50. Sludge
52. Flame-haired Fleming
55. Singer Vic
60. End of many a URL
62. Navy VIP
64. "Dear me!"
66. Circumvent
67. Sitar virtuoso Shankar
68. Dickens's

69. Pecksniff
70. Potato processor
71. State: Fr.
72. Arty New York district
73. British guns
74. Editor's extraction

DOWN

1. Addis ___
2. Course after the entrée, in Europe
3. Have ___ in the hole
4. Civil Rights legend Rosa
5. Learned thoroughly
6. Exploitative sort
7. Snuffy Smith's kid
8. Act exaggeratedly
9. ___ Cordova, California

10. School gp.
11. Knowledge based on experience
12. Country on the Caspian
13. "___ Woman in Your Life"
21. "Puf" preeder, in the laundry
22. ___ Christian Andersen
26. Metronome's output
28. "___ in a Manger"
30. Agreement
31. In re
32. Old oil flask
33. Impostor
34. Upshot
35. Emulate Jack and Jill
37. Bible matriarch
38. Laos's neighbor on old maps
42. Enjoys a ghost story
45. "Take ___ leave it!"
49. Regards with curled lip
51. Beaver creation
53. Boat hoist
54. ___ against time
56. Bugged down
57. Stump, politically
58. Part of USNA
59. Choice
60. Bandmate of Michelle and Denny
61. Dairy case bargain
63. Actor Young of "Cousin Bette"
65. HBO competitor



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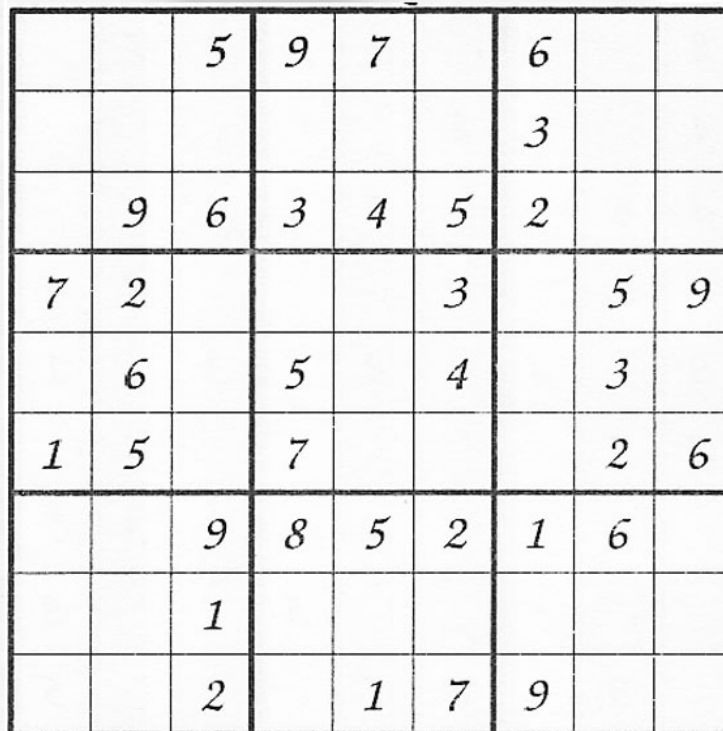
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7	5	6	4	3	2	1	8	9
9	7	1	5	8	6	4	3	2
1	8	7	2	5	3	9	6	4
6	5	8	9	1	7	2	4	3
4	1	2	3	6	9	5	7	8
5	6	9	8	7	1	4	3	2
8	7	9	1	6	5	3	2	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

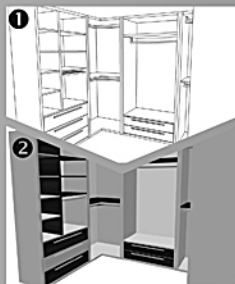


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White House defends deficit

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama's chief of staff, yesterday defended his boss for failing to cut the U.S. budget deficit, making the election-year argument that now was the wrong time to impose austerity measures that could sap an economic recovery.

Republicans have slammed Democrat Obama for laying out a budget plan that raises taxes on the rich, which they view as designed to help his campaign for re-election on November 6, rather than controlling the growth of the U.S. deficit and debt.

But Lew, speaking on Sunday television news shows on the eve of Obama's 2013 budget proposal to Congress, said the plan would outline \$4 trillion in 10 year deficit reductions, alongside measures to deliver essential support to near-term growth.

"I think there is pretty broad agreement that the time for austerity is not today," Lew,

Obama's budget chief until few weeks ago, told NBC's "Meet the Press".

This was also why Congress ought to pass a payroll tax cut extension before it expires in two weeks' time, he said.

Obama's budget will request over \$800 billion in multi-year spending for job creation and infrastructure programs, including tax breaks for companies and individuals worth more than \$300 billion in 2012 if passed into law.

Congress is free to ignore the president's proposals and Republicans have said Obama's budget will be dead on arrival.

"Jack Lew did the full tour of all five Sunday shows this morning, failing on each show to articulate how their upcoming budget would lift the crushing burden of debt," said Gerrit Lansing, spokesman for House of Representatives Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, a Republican.

The budget, which will be delivered to Congress today, projects the deficit at \$1.33 trillion this fiscal year or 8.5 percent of gross domestic product, declining to \$901 billion, or 5.5 percent of GDP, in 2013.

Airlines urge U.N. deal to avert carbon trade war

SINGAPORE - Global airlines called yesterday for a U.N.-brokered deal to prevent a row over aviation emissions between China and the European Union spilling into a damaging trade war.

The call by the head of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) comes amid signs that the EU may be willing to soften a unilateral stance that also risks souring efforts to resolve Europe's sovereign debt crisis with Chinese support.

In an interview, IATA Director General Tony Tyler said airlines had become wedged between conflicting domestic laws after China ordered its airlines not to join the EU's compulsory market-based system for regulating airline emissions.

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Finance China vows to pursue balanced trade with US

SHANGHAI (AFP) - A top Chinese official yesterday vowed Beijing would pursue more balanced trade with the United States, as the country's Vice President Xi Jinping prepares for an official US visit.

Xi, the country's leader-in-waiting, is likely to face a barrage of complaints over China's allegedly discriminatory trade policies when he visits the US in the coming week.

Trade tensions between the world's two largest economies are on the rise as US President Barack Obama seeks to spark economic growth and create jobs -- and bids for re-election -- by attacking the deep US trade deficit with China.

China's Vice Minister of Commerce, Gao Hucheng, said both countries should make ef-

orts to address the imbalance.

"The imbalance in bilateral trade is a fact," Gao said. "Both sides must gradually resolve it in the course of adjusting the economic structure."

The US trade deficit with China reached a record high of more than \$295 billion in 2011, according to US figures.

Gao said the US could sell more to China if Washington would loosen its export controls, particularly for technology products. Washington should also be "fair" to Chinese companies seeking to invest in the US.

Analysts say Obama's pledge last month to launch a trade enforcement unit likely to focus on China and a new sweeping complaint against Beijing by the US auto parts industry are raising tensions.

Wing cracks could cost Airbus 100 million euros

FRANKFURT - Dealing with the wing cracks found in Airbus A380 superjumbos could cost the European plane maker up to 100 million euros (\$132 million), a German magazine reported.

Checking and repairing the wings of the 69 aircraft already in service could cost about 70 million euros, weekly Der Spiegel said yesterday, citing unidentified industry experts and people at Airbus.

Changing the production process at Airbus, which is a

unit of European Aeronautic Defence & Space Co., would account for the remainder, it said.

The magazine cited an Airbus spokesman as saying a long-term technical solution would be found by the summer but that he would not comment on costs.

European air safety officials extended checks for A380 wing cracks to the entire super-jumbo fleet on Wednesday and said the defects could pose a safety risk if ignored.

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TIGER	SPIRAL	
BAT	CURIA	AIDS
IDREAM	OFJEANNIE	
REAM	SLAPS	KEN
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Whitney Houston, one of the most celebrated female singers of all time



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Pop legend Whitney Houston, who died Saturday, inspired a generation of music fans with her soaring voice described by her contemporaries as nothing short of magical.

"She had that voice that could just turn a story, a melody into magical notes," said singer Lionel Richie, a contemporary of Houston.

The 48-year-old Grammy-winner was a huge star in the 1980s and 1990s, selling over 170 million albums with worldwide hits including "I Will Always Love You," before her career and personal life went off the rails as she descended into a very public battle with substance abuse.

"She was a legend. These people don't come around often," British television host and producer Simon Cowell told CNN television. "No one could sell a song like Whitney."

She was a trailblazer who proved that a female artist could dominate the pop market, Cowell said.

With a ferociously powerful voice and a dazzling range, Houston achieved stardom as a pop-soul singer

known as "the Voice" and the "Queen of Pop".

Her fantastic success -- and that of fellow pop icon Michael Jackson -- was propelled by a brand new device at the time: the pop music video.

Houston's trove of six Grammy awards included one for record of the year -- for a soaring cover of Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You," and another for album of the year for "The Bodyguard."

She later parlayed her stardom to acting success appearing in hit movies like "Waiting to Exhale" and "The Bodyguard," co-starring Kevin Costner.

Born on August 9, 1963 in Newark, New Jersey to a musical family that included mother Cissy Houston, a gospel star, and Dionne Warwick, her cousin, she started out as a teen model and then made a dazzling segue to music.

She was "discovered" by veteran producer Clive Davis, who oversaw each of her hit records -- she was due to attend his traditional pre-Grammys party on Saturday, when Houston was found dead in her hotel room.

Houston had 11 Billboard number one singles between 1985 and 1995. Her hits included "How Will I Know," "Saving all My Love for You," and "I Will Always Love You," a Dolly Parton cover that Houston made her own megahit.

As a performer, Houston earned a reputation as a regal diva, but not without merit.

Grammys organizing chief Neil Portnow called Houston "one of the world's greatest pop singers of all time who leaves behind a robust musical soundtrack

spanning the past three decades.

Many stars took to Twitter to voice shock after Houston was found dead in the Beverly Hilton, hours before a traditional pre-Grammys dinner which she was due to attend.

"It's a tragedy. Whitney Houston was the greatest singer I've ever heard and she will be truly missed," wrote veteran crooner Tony Bennett.

Houston also was a trail-blazing African-American beauty, a teen model who became the first black cover girl on "Seventeen" magazine.

In recent years she has battled to revive her career after suffering a major career setback after admitting drug use during an abusive relationship with ex-husband Bobby Brown.

In a 2009 interview with Oprah Winfrey, Houston blamed an emotional abusive and jealous Brown for many of her problems, admitted that she laced her marijuana with rock cocaine, and revealed that she'd spent time in rehab.

The couple divorced in 2007, with Houston getting custody of their daughter,

Bobbi Kristina.

Her albums include: "Whitney Houston" (1985), "Whitney" (1987), "I'm Your Baby Tonight" (1990), "My Love is Your Love" (1998), "Just Whitney" (2002), "One Wish: The Holiday Album" (2003)

After several years out of the spotlight, she returned to the recording studio to make her last album, "I Look to You," released in 2009.

"I just took a break, which sometimes you have to," said Houston. "You have to know when to slow that train down and kind of just sit back and relax for a minute."



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Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline

pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



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Stunning sunset

Over twenty years ago, a very clever person had the idea of placing a cozy little restaurant on the top of the cliff adjacent to the California Lighthouse, offering the most stunning view of Aruba imaginable. La Trattoria el Faro Blanco took over the location some years ago, and the restaurant's quaint trappings, superb selection and amenable staff has made it a one of the island's most popular dining spots ever since.

Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special occasion, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list allows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unobstructed view, recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

All these aspects of charming surroundings, dining al

fresco with a breathtaking view (or in their enclosed air-conditioned dining room, if you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba. Reservations can be made by calling 586-0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, www.aruba-latratortoria.com, where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.

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No Djokovic, no problem as Serbia eye Spain's title

PARIS (AFP) - Serbia shrugged off the absence of Novak Djokovic to reach the Davis Cup last eight on Sunday with the 2010 champions confidently setting their

sights on dethroning Spain in November's final.

Janko Tipsarevic secured an unassailable 3-1 lead over Sweden in the World Group first round tie in Nis with a 6-

2, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 win over Michael Ryderstedt.

Victory gave Serbia a quarter-final tie in April against the Czech Republic, but captain Bogdan Obradovic believes that with world number one Djokovic back in the side for that clash, his country can start dreaming of a second title.

"It's never easy to play matches in which you are the odds-on favourite but the players dealt with the pressure really well against Sweden," Obradovic told www.daviscup.com.

The United States, the 32-time champions, completed a 5-0 whitewash over Switzerland in Fribourg.

Ryan Harrison beat Michael Lammer 7-6 (7/0), 7-6 (7/4) and John Isner, who condemned Roger Federer to his first defeat in the tournament in nine years on Friday, saw off Marco Chiudinelli 6-3, 6-4.

The US will face either France or Canada in the last eight.

Spain, playing without Rafael Nadal, who is skipping the tournament this year, had already made sure of their sixth successive appearance in the quarter-finals by taking an unassailable 3-0 lead on Saturday against Kazakhstan in Oviedo.



Musicians and dancers perform before the African Cup of Nations final football match between Zambia and Ivory Coast on February 12, 2012, at the Stade de l'Amitie in Libreville. AFP PHOTO

Mancini will welcome back Tevez if he says sorry

BIRMINGHAM (AFP) - Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini has told Carlos Tevez that an apology over his touchline tantrum might be enough to end his exile.

Tevez is reported to have said he will return to Manchester on Tuesday after spending the last few months back home in Argentina following his row with Mancini during a Champions League tie against Bayern Munich in September.

The Argentina forward has not played for City since he refused to warm up during

the Bayern defeat and he was expected to leave the Premier League club during the January transfer window.

However, City were unable to agree a deal with AC Milan, Inter Milan and Paris Saint Germain and Tevez has now indicated he is ready to resume his career with City.

Mancini, who saw his side return to the top of the table with a 1-0 win over Aston Villa on Sunday, had previously insisted Tevez would never play for him again, but he now appears to have softened his stance.

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Korda wins Australian Open in six-way play-off



MELBOURNE (AFP) - American teenager Jessica Korda sunk a 25-foot birdie putt on the second play-off hole to win the Women's Australian Open in a six-way play-off at Royal Melbourne on Sunday.

Korda, 18, prevailed against Koreans Ryu So-Yeon and Seo Hee-Kyung, Americans Brittany Lincicome and Stacy Lewis, and Paraguay's Julieta Granada

for her first win as a professional and on the LPGA Tour.

"I'm overwhelmed," said Florida-based Korda, whose Czech father Petr won the Australian Open men's tennis title in 1998.

"I was really calm. I knew what the putt did because I'd had it before and it did not move," she said.

All six players made par on the first extra hole. On the second, Lincicome, Lewis, Granada and Seo made par while Ryu had a bogey.

The last US Tour event with six players in a shoot-out was the 1999 Jamie Farr Classic, won by Korean star Se Ri Pak.

"When we spoke on Monday Dad said Melbourne had been good to him," she said.

"As I was walking around here, there was a Melbourne sign on every green. It made me smile because it reminds me of the good times.

"It is a really special place for my family. For my first win, I honestly could not have thought of a better place," said Korda, who banks \$165,000 for her victory.

Korda is projected to jump from 285th to 30th in the world rankings and becomes the sixth-youngest winner in LPGA Tour history and the fourth youngest to win a 72-hole event.

Dutch league results

FC Utrecht 1 ADO Den Haag 1

PSV Eindhoven 4 De Graafschap 1

RKC Waalwijk 0 SC Heerenveen 1

Feyenoord 3 Vitesse Arnhem 1

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AZ Alkmaar 2 Excelsior 0

VVV Venlo 2 FC Groningen 0

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NAC Breda 0 Ajax 2

Friday

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Bryant lifts Lakers over Raptors

TORONTO (AFP) - Kobe Bryant scored 27 points, including the deciding points in the final seconds, to power the Los Angeles Lakers past the Toronto Raptors 94-92 in an NBA matchup on Sunday.

Jose Calderon sank a jumper with 1:41 remaining to give the Raptors a 90-86 lead but Bryant answered with a 3-pointer and Metta World Peace (the former Ron Artest) added a driving layin

with 31 seconds remaining to give the Lakers a 91-90 edge.

Spain's Calderon scored the last of his game-high 30 points on a jumper with 16 seconds remaining to put Toronto back on top, but Bryant sank a fadeaway jumper with 4.8 seconds remaining to put the Lakers ahead for good.

A Toronto turnover on the inbounds play led to Bryant making 1-of-2 free throws

with 3.7 seconds remaining and the Raptors' DeMar DeRozan missed a 3-point shot at the buzzer.

Spaniard Pau Gasol added 16 points, 17 rebounds and six assists for the Lakers while Andrew Bynum contributed 14 points and nine rebounds for Los Angeles.

Lithuanian Linas Kleiza scored 15 points and Brazilian Leandro Barbosa added 12 for the Raptors.

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Cabrera-Bello wins Dubai Desert Classic



DUBAI (AFP) - Rafael Cabrera-Bello became the third consecutive Spanish winner of the \$2.5 million Dubai

Desert Classic when he won on Sunday with a final-round four-under par 68.

The 27-year-old, who fol-

lows in the footsteps of Miguel Angel Jimenez in 2010 and Alvaro Quiros last year, tallied 18-under par 270 to win by one shot over England's world number three Lee Westwood and Scotland's Stephen Gallacher.

The win, only his second on the European Tour for the world No119, is expected to lift him to around 60th in the rankings. His previous win the 2009 Austrian Open, where he had closed with a round of 60.

Germany's Marcel Siem was in sole fourth place at 15-under par 273, while world number two Rory McIlroy endured another frustrating day on the greens before a birdie on the final hole lifted him to tied fifth position at 14-under par.

Also finishing on 274 were South African George Coetzee, Scot Scott Jamieson and Denmark's Soren Kjeldsen.

"I am just so happy," said Cabrera-Bello, who was playing ahead of the leadergroup which comprised Westwood and Gallacher. "I played well throughout the week and am delighted to finish ahead of such a good field this week. This is unbelievable.

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